

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

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P R 100950Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8557

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI

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DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 16384

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT-- DECEMBER 3, 1974

GENERAL

1. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET RETURNED TO AN ELABORATE WELCOMING CEREMONY IN PHNOM PENH AS SIGNS POINTED TO INCREASING INTERNAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY. MAJOR PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND INTO 1975. SIHANOUK AND THE IN-COUNTRY INSURGENTS HARDENED THEIR OPPOSITION TO UN MEDIATION TO END THE WAR AND CLANDESTINE RADIO HINTED AT FUTURE MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST THE LOWER MEKONG. FANK CLEARED ROUTE 5 AGAIN, BUT SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH , TROOPS IN THE BASSAC RIVER OPERATION TOOK A BEATING, LOSING OVER A KILOMETER WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET RETURNED TO A TRIUMPHAL RECEPTION DECEMBER 7 AND PROMISED THE NATION A FULL REPORT ON THE SUCCESSFUL UN EFFORT.

3. A SERIES OF RUMORS OF IMPENDING CABINET CHANGES BROKE INTO THE PRESS AS DAILY AREYTHOR SPECULATED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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A NEW CABINET WILL UNITE MEN OF VARIOUS POLITICAL TENDENCIES TO SHOW THE GKR'S SINCERITY TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE. SUPPORTERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S YOUNGER BROTHER, LON NON, HAVE BEGUN THEIR PUSH FOR CONTROL OF THE RULING SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY. EMBASSY CONTACTS SAY THAT LON NON SEEKS TO TAKE THE SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP OF THE PARTY FROM PAN SOTHI AT THE PARTY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY. SOCIO-REPUBLI-

CAN OPPONENTS OF LON NON ARE NOT YET ORGANIZED TO MEET HIS CHALLENGE.

4. THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL FINALLY HANDED DOWN SENTENCES IN THE CASE OF THE MURDER OF FIVE STUDENTS HELD BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR LOOTING AND SOWING PANIC IN THE WAKE OF A SEVERE ARTILLERY ATTACK ON THE CAPITAL LAST JANUARY. THE COURT ACQUITTED FIVE AND GAVE A SUSPENDED SENTENCE OF EIGHT YEARS IMPRISONMENT TO THE SERGEANT IN IMMEDIATE COMMAND. THE SERGEANT WAS ORDERED TO PAY 400,000 RIELS DAMAGES TO THE VICTIMS' PARENTS.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

5. GKR SUPPORTERS ANTICIPATED A CHALLENGE TO KHMER CREDENTIALS AT THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND WHEN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT COMES BEFORE THE PLENARY FOR APPROVAL.

6. THE ELYSEE PRESS OFFICE HAS RELEASED FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S STATEMENT TO HIS CABINET ON CAMBODIA. GISCARD SAID THAT FRENCH ABSTENTION ON THE KHMER ISSUE AT THE UN DID NOT MEAN FRENCH INDIFFERENCE TO THE SUFFERINGS OF "THE KHMER NATION". HE ADDED THAT FRANCE HOPED THE WAR WOULD END SOON AND THAT IT COULD ONLY END "... IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE KHMERS OWN CHOICE". HE EXPRESSED FRENCH SYMPATHY AND FRIENDSHIP "TO THE KHMER NATION." THE GKR PRAISED GISCARD'S STATEMENT AND INTERPRETED IT AS SUPPORTING THE JULY 9 CALL FOR PEACE AND THE RECENTLY PASSED UN RESOLUTION. COMMENT: THE CAREFULLY FORMULATED STATEMENT SEEMS TO SUGGEST THAT THE FRENCH PRESIDENT WISHES TO MAKE KNOWN

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HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN INDOCHINA WITHOUT ADDING ANYTHING NEW TO FRENCH POLICY ON CAMBODIA.

GRUNK/FUNK

7. BOTH SIHANOUK AND THE IN-COUNTRY INSURGENTS HARDENED THEIR OPPOSITION TO UN MEDIATION. IN PYONGYANG THE PRINCE REAFFIRMED THAT THE "CAMBODIAN PEOPLE, THE FUNK, THE GRUNK, AND THE CPNLAF RESOLUTELY AND DECISIVELY REJECT THIS UNJUST RESOLUTION"...AND VOWED TO FIGHT ON ANOTHER 20 YEARS IF NECESSARY. IN A DECEMBER 6 FAREWELL BANQUET TWO DAYS BEFORE RETURNING TO CHINA, SIHANOUK ASSERTED THE RESOLUTION WAS A DISGRACE TO THE UN AND THAT THE UN MUST BEAR "FULL RESPONSIBILITY" FOR CONTINUED WAR IN CAMBODIA. HE ADDED THAT DESPITE THEIR

RESPECT FOR THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, "WE SAY...DO NOT
TRY TO CONTACT US AND SEE US. WE REJECT...THE UNJUST
RESOLUTION...WE WILL FIGHT TO THE END..." KHIEU SAMPHAN
WAS LESS POLITE. HE SUPPORTED SIHANOUK'S NOVEMBER 28
AND 30 REJECTIONS ON BEHALF OF THOSE "WHO WORK AT HOME"
ADDING THAT THEY..."...ABSOLUTELY FORBID THE UN OR ANY
FOREIGNER TO INTERFERE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS." A
CLANDESTINE RADIO EDITORIAL DECEMBER 4 PLAINLY STATES,
"THE UNITED NATIONS MUST NOT INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF
CAMBODIA...IF U.S. IMPERIALISMS OR ANYBODY ENTERS

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L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SSC-01 NIC-01 /082 W

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P R 100950Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8558

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CGUSARSUPTHAI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 16384

CAMBODIA TO HELP THE LON NON CLIQUE, THEY WILL BE
RESOLUTELY DRIVEN FROM CAMBODIA BY ITS PEOPLE."

8. CLANDESTINE RADIO SUMMARIZED NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES
AGAINST MEKONG SHIPPING NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS
WEATERWAY AS THE GKR'S SOLE LINE OF COMMUNICATION TO OUT-
SIDE FOOD, FUEL AND MUNITIONS. THE BROADCAST SAID, "IF
THE LOWER MEKONG IS EVER BLOCKED, THE CLIQUE WOULD BE
CHOKED TO DEATH..." COMMENT: THE LOWER MEKONG SAW SOME
INITIALLY SUCCESSFUL ENEMY ACTIVITY LAST DRY SEASON. THE
KC MAY BE "TELEGRAPHING" ONE OF THEIR PUNCHES FOR THIS
DRY SEASON.
ECONOMIC

9. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH DECEMBER 8 TOTALLED 22,000
M/T, OR A 29-DAY SUPPLY DISTRIBUTED AT 770 TONS/DAY.
ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION AVERAGED 642/TONS/DAY FOR THE WEEK
ENDING DECEMBER 8. ONE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED DECEMBER 8
WITH 3,786 M/T OF RICE. THREE SMALL TONLE SAP RIVER CON-
VOYS OF THE USAID-CHARTERED FLEET DELIVERED A TOTAL OF
1,011 M/T OF BATTAMBANG RICE FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG TO
PHNOM PENH. COMMENT: WHILE THE 22,000 M/T SUPPLY
APPEARS FAVORABLE, 13,500 M/T IS BATTAMBANG RICE, WHICH

IS PRICED BEYOND THE MEANS OF MOST OF THE POPULATION.
THE 8,500 M/T OF U.S. RICE IS WELL BELOW THE LEVEL RE-
QUITED FOR NORMAL RESERVES. TO AUGMENT THIS SUPPLY A
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SPECIAL MEKONG CONVOY IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM
PENH DECEMBER 10 WITH AN ADDITIONAL 4,447 M/T.

10. A CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE KHMER GOVERNMENT CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND DURING 1975 WAS HELD IN MANILA DECEMBER 5. REPRESENTATIVES OF INDONESIA, ITALY, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, UK, US AND THE IMF ATTENDED TOGETHER WITH OBSERVERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES AND THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. IT WAS AGREED TO CONTINUE THE FUND INTO 1975, WITH ONLY INDONESIA STATING DEFINITELY IT COULD NOT MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES FOR 1975 ARE TO INFORM THE GKR OF THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.

11. THE OPEN MARKET PRICE OF US RICE MORE THAN DOUBLED EARLY LAST WEEK DUE TO RUMORS OF A SHORTAGE, BUT THEN QUICKLY BEGAN RECEDING, APPARENTLY AS NEWS OF IMMINENT US RICE ARRIVALS REACHED THE MARKET. BY DECEMBER 9 THE PRICE WAS 250 RIELS PER KILO, ABOUT 30 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE 190 RIELS/KILO PRICE OF THE PREVIOUS MONDAY. BATTAMBANG RICE ROSE 4 PERCENT. OTHER PRICES GENERALLY CONTINUED FALLING, WITH MOST DECLINING AT A FASTER RATE THAN DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK. DUCK EGGS, ALMOST ALL VEGETABLES, SUGAR, SALT, AND SOAP ALL SHOWED DECREASES RANGING FROM 6 TO 33 PERCENT. PORK, BEEF, OCEAN FISH, AND ALMOST ALL FRUITS REMAINED STEADY. THE MAJOR EXCEPTION WAS A 50 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE LAST WEEKEND FOR FRESH WATER FISH, AS SUPPLIES IN THE MARKET DIMINISHED. THIS INCREASE IS EXPECTED TO BE TEMPORARY SINCE THE SEASON IS JUST BEGINNING.

12. THE BLACK MARKET EXCHANGE RATE INCREASED BY ONLY ONE PERCENT OVER THE PAST WEEK FROM 1,650 TO 1,660 RIELS/US DOLLAR. THE FREE MARKET (OFFICIAL) EXCHANGE RATE WAS DROPPED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET WAS RESTRICTED IN MID-SEPTEMBER FROM 1,700 RIELS/ DOLLAR TO 1,650 IN ORDER TO ALIGN IT WITH THE NOUVEAU MARCHE CUT-OFF RATE (LOW TRANSACTION--1,65) A POLICY MEASURE RECOMMENDED BY THE IMF EXCHANGE RATE CONSULTANT. THUS THE OFFICIAL, NOUVEAU MARCHE, AND BLACK MARKET EXCHANGE RATES ARE ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT. THE PRICE OF GOLD DECLINED 14 PERCENT FROM \$179.9 TO 150.8 PER TROY OUNCE.
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MILITARY

13. FANK CLEARED ROUTE 5 DECEMBER FIFTH AND WORKERS HAD REPAIRED TWO OF THREE BLOWN BRIDGES BY THE NINTH. A 140-TRUCK CONVOY IS HELD UP AT PURSAT AWAITING COMPLETION OF REPAIRS TO THE THIRD BRIDGE BEFORE GOING ON TO KOMPONG CHHNANG.

14. FANK'S BASSAC RIVER OPERATION SUFFERED A MAJOR SET-BACK DECEMBER 4 WHEN A LARGE ENEMY UNIT HIT THE 190TH BATTALION, CAUSING HEAVY CASUALTIES. THE 78TH BRIGADE BROKE WHEN THE ENEMY REACHED THEM AND OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE 78TH IS STILL MISSING. FANK COUNTERATTACKED DECEMBER 9 KILLING 35 AND CAPTURING NUMEROUS WEAPONS, BUT REGAINED ONLY 200 OF THE 1,500 METERS IT HAD LOST.

15. AT TAKEO THE KC ENCIRCLED A COMPANY-SIZED POSITION ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE PERIMETER, BUT RELIEF FORCES REPORTEDLY KILLED 70 ENEMY AS THEY RETURNED THE POSITION TO FRIENDLY CONTROL DECEMBER 7.

16. GKR FORCES AT NEAK LUONG HAVE UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO RETAKE THREE LOST POSITIONS NEAR THE VILLAGE OF ANG KOK. A TWO BATTALION SWEEP CLAIMED 48 ENEMY KILLED IN A CONTINUING OPERATION TO RECOVER THE LOST POSITIONS.

17. A MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED AND DEPARTED PHNOM PENH, SUFFERING ONE ATTACK BY FIRE ENROUTE WHICH CAUSED NO CASUALTIES AND LITTLE DAMAGE. TWO RIVER CONVOYS TRAVELLED TO KOMPONG CHHNANG REPORTEDLY WITHOUT INCIDENT.
KEELEY

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